

Hailsham Town Council THE TOWN CRIER



WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER!

We very much hope you will like the new format and find the new content of interest. We have worked hard to make the newsletter – now called 'The Town Crier' – more interesting and enjoyable to read.

'The Town Crier' will concentrate on activities around your town, what the Council and Councillors are doing on your behalf and what they intend to do in the future. And there are a lot of exciting things going to happen! You will also find articles written by the police, updates on Hailsham in Bloom activities, town centre events and other Town Council activities happening in and around 'your' town.

You will notice that we have now introduced a 'Readers

Letter Page' whereby you can send us your views on what your Councillors and Town Council are doing on your behalf. We very much hope you will send us your letters, which may well be printed in the following edition. Whether you have a complaint, opinion, something more of a general nature to air, or would like to offer your support, we want to hear from you!

We are also looking at the possibility of producing audio versions of the newsletter so that blind and partially sighted people can also benefit from the information contained in future editions, and will keep you informed of any developments.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

FAREWELL TO TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS

Hailsham's long-standing Town Clerk is set to retire from her role at the Town Council, after 31 years of loyal service.

Liz Jones, who started working for the Council in 1980 and taking up the position of Town Clerk in 2000, will step down from the role. Town Mayor Councillor Jeff Bentley-Astor describes the role of the Town Clerk as "the beating heart and nerve centre of the town."

Liz has learned that no day is exactly the same - and to expect anything in her busy office role: "It has been a great privilege to be involved in the town for so long. The role of Town Clerk has been very interesting and a formidable challenge getting considerably bigger over the last few years, but one that I have relished and will miss when I retire."



Liz Jones



Liz Mason

Once she steps down, Liz intends to take up again many of the interests that have been "on hold" whilst she has been Town Clerk and to travel as much as possible both in the UK and abroad.

Liz Jones' retirement from the Council this November will be the third to occur this year; Receptionist and Burials Administrator Liz Mason stepped down from her role in July and Richard Diplock has announced that he will retire from his role as Responsible Finance Officer at the end of September, after 22 and 17 years of dedicated service respectively.



Richard Diplock

SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Town Council (& Trusts): Wed 14 Sep, Wed 12 Oct, Wed 16 Nov [meetings start 8pm]
Finance & Budget Oversight Committee: Mon 5 Oct (budget); Mon 9 Nov [meetings start 7.30pm]
Planning & Development Committee: Tues 27 Sep, Tues 18 Oct, Tues 8 Nov, Tues 29 Nov [meetings start 7pm]
Hailsham in Bloom Committee: Mon 26 Sep, Mon 31 Oct, Mon 28 Nov [meetings start 7.30pm]
 [All meetings are held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room/Council Chamber and are open to the press and public, unless otherwise stated.]

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

With the autumn evenings approaching, it is time to focus on keeping your home secure. Remember a few of these simple tips to help keep your property safe:

- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light in a room that cannot be peered into from the road or upstairs. Regularly change the timing of the switch.
- Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed - your tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants - don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system, ensure it is one most suitable to your needs.

For more advice, please refer to 'Operation Twilight' on the Sussex Police website (www.sussex.police.uk) or ask your local officers for a leaflet. PCSOs Alison Bond – 07787 685747 and Sue Choppin – 07795 603678 are always happy to pop in to see you & offer advice and support.

HIGH STREET EMPTY SHOP CLEAN-UP

Town councillors and local residents have done their bit to enhance the appearance of a number of empty premises in the town centre.

Volunteers joined with councillors on Saturday 30th July to help remove fly posters from vacant retail units, clear out rubbish and clean shop windows, which have now been filled with locally produced artwork and photographs displaying all that's good about Hailsham.

Steve McAuliffe, 'Oversight Councillor' for High Street and Town Centre Regeneration hopes is grateful to everyone who took part in the clean-up and helping make a real difference in their community: "It was amazing to see Town Council members,

Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce and commercial managing agents Ross & Co have pulled together to make our town centre more presentable."

"With many high streets across the country seeing empty shops boarded up or laden with rubbish and unsightly promotional material in shop windows because of the recent economic downturn, impacting on consumer and business confidence, the idea of the 'High Street Clean-Up' was to brighten up the town, while making it easier for landlords to rent out their shops in the near future."



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JAPANESE KNOTWEED REMOVAL

Japanese Knotweed is now one of the UK's most invasive plants. Growing up to 10cm per day it can cause:

- Mortgages being refused
- Damage to foundations and structures
- Damage to road surfaces
- Damage to walls
- A monoculture swamping out native vegetation

For fast effective removal and eradication call **01323 841836**
 Mob: 07790 827360
 Email: terrafirma@o2email.co.uk
 UNIT 8 NORTH CRESCENT, HAILSHAM, BN27 3JF

TERRA FIRMA

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NEW BUSINESSES OPEN IN TOWN CENTRE

The Town Council has welcomed a recent flow of independent businesses opening up in Hailsham.

British food specialist Callenders Restaurant, country wear and accessories shop Country Necessities and Antiques & All Sorts are the latest in a succession of businesses to occupy some of the vacant shopping units in the town centre in recent months.

Town Mayor Councillor Jeff Bentley-Astor believes the opening of new businesses is a sign that Hailsham is gradually rebounding from the recession: "I am really delighted that further

shops have opened their doors, this surely being a continuation of an emerging trend and a welcome boost for the town."

"Ideally, there should be an assortment of independent traders in the town centre too, and we are very fortunate in that we have a diverse range of these in Hailsham covering many sectors. Independents are more than just 'shops in town'. They are part of Hailsham's thriving and vibrant community and the Town Council will continue to support local businesses to enhance the position of Hailsham as a growing retail centre."



COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

SOUTH & WEST WARD	CENTRAL & NORTH WARD	EAST WARD
Jo BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 840386	Bill BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 847685	Stella HENSTOCK (CON) – 01323 842763
Jeffrey BENTLEY-ASTOR (CON) – 01323 841332	Nicholas COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 844146	Michael RYAN (CON) – 07545 136168
Margaret BURT (CON) – 01323 840345	Jennifer COOK (CON) – 01323 844463	Stuart TOWNER (CON) – 07908 251801
Nigel COLTMAN (CON) – 01323 841925	Paul HOLBROOK (LD) – 01323 841978	
Bill CRITENDEN (HI) – 01323 840021	Barry MARLOWE (CON) – 01323 840660	
Richard GROCOCK (CON) – 01323 842931	Stephen MCAULIFFE (CON) – 01323 841702	UPPER HORSEBRIDGE WARD
Geoffrey ROWE (HI) – 01323 841847	Dawn RYAN (CON) – 01323 847804	John BLAKE (LD) – 01323 846297
Mary ROWE (HI) – 01323 841847		Charlotte COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 841702
Chriss TRIANDAFYLLOU (CON) – 01323 848814		Barbara HOLBROOK (LD) – 01323 841978
Anthony WILLIAMS (CON) – 01323 849652		Margaret SKINNER (CON) – 01323 841702

Political Party Key: CON: Conservative; HI: Hailsham Independents; LD: Liberal Democrat;
* Postal addresses of councillors are available at the Town Council Offices or via www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk

PCSO FUNDING CONTINUES

The Town Council has announced that it is to continue funding Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and help deliver added reassurance for the local community.

Town councillors have agreed to renew the annual PCSO contract for the funding of two PCSOs, guaranteeing the town extra officers to work alongside others who are funded directly by the police.

The cost of sponsoring two full-time PCSOs for the year is £61,418 and this is included in the Town Council's annual budget for 2011/2012. Residents have expressed their appreciation of the role carried out by the PCSOs and their activities as part of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).

Emergency Services Liaison for the Town Council, Councillor Tony Williams commented, "This good news comes at a time when a number of residents are anxious that PCSO numbers would be reduced in 2011 and that officer presence in the local community would diminish as a result."

"The Town Council's continued sponsorship of PCSOs will allow our Neighbourhood Policing Team to provide a visible, uniformed presence where it is needed most, to help cut crime and deal swiftly with anti-social behaviour. This is all part of the Town Council's drive towards a safer and stronger community and delivering best value for money for residents."



HTC Sponsored PCSOs – Alison Bond (left); Sue Choppin (right)

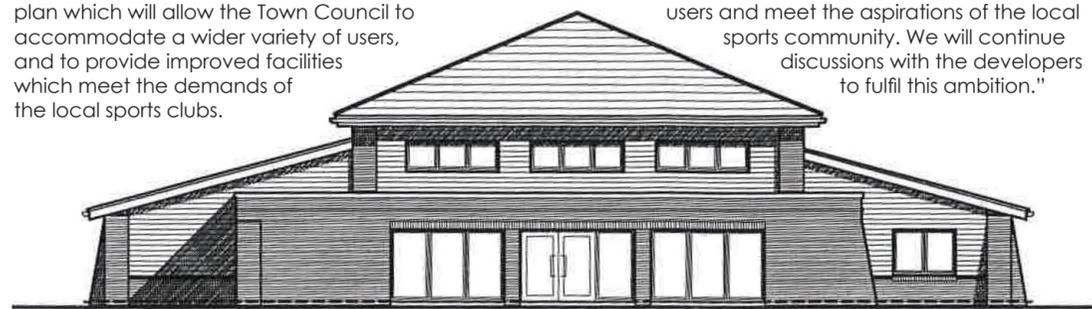
COMMUNITY SPORTS HALL GETS GO AHEAD

As you may already know, part of the planning requirements for the current Welbury Farm development, developers Taylor Wimpey are required to provide a community hall and formal sports/play facilities.

The Town Council, which agreed last year to take on responsibility for the new facility once constructed, have considered various proposals for the design of the building and formally agreed a design plan which will allow the Town Council to accommodate a wider variety of users, and to provide improved facilities which meet the demands of the local sports clubs.

When available for community use, features of the new sports and community building will include the installation of showers, toilets and modern changing facilities for larger sports teams.

Michael Ryan, the Town Council's 'Oversight Councillor' for Sport said, "The latest design plans for the hall represent an exciting opportunity for the Hailsham community and will allow the Town Council to accommodate a wide variety of users and meet the aspirations of the local sports community. We will continue discussions with the developers to fulfil this ambition."



FRONT ELEVATION.

Produced by Chris Dowling Print & Design Ltd for and on behalf of Hailsham Town Council, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2AE. Tel: (01323) 841702 Fax (01323) 842978.

CHRISTMAS & FESTIVE EVENT PLANS UNDER WAY

The Town Council is planning well ahead this year, with preparations for Hailsham's Christmas festivities already under way for a Dickensian-style market.

Taking place on Saturday 10th December, the Town Council is working on a program of activities aimed at giving a festive boost to town trade and attracting more people to the town centre during the festive season.

Councillor Jo Bentley said, "Saturday 10th December will bring energy and atmosphere to the town and our main aim is to establish a lively and inclusive festive event that is community led and benefits the residents of Hailsham, whilst supporting local traders and increasing public participation in the town during the festive period."

Working alongside partners including Hailsham Lions' Club and the Lark In The Park Trust, Cllr Bentley adds, "Whilst most of the arrangements for the event are not yet in place, we are confident that the Christmas Market will be a great family event offering something for everyone."

Hailsham Town Council welcomes applications from traders selling items such as food, crafts and Christmas gifts. Budding street entertainers are also wanted and should contact the Town Council for further details. Interested traders and organisations are asked to contact Karen Moralee on 01323 841702 for an application form.



QUALITY BUS PARTNERSHIP

A Quality Bus Partnership has been established by the Town Council to drive forward public transport improvements in the town through promoting the use of public transport, and the improvement in quality of bus routes and bus stop networks for local residents.

The partnership, which consists of Hailsham and Hellingly Council representatives, together with bus operators servicing Hailsham, and nearby parishes and East Sussex and Wealden Councils as appropriate will formally agree an 'Action Plan' in the coming weeks.

Quality Bus Partnership member Councillor Barry Marlowe said, "The appointment of this group is great news for anyone who uses bus services in Hailsham. We share a common objective with bus operators of encouraging people out of their cars and onto public transport, improving public transport punctuality for residents and minimising the environmental impact of bus services in the town."

A 'Passenger User Group' has also been set up by the partnership, drawn from local residents and bus users to strengthen the voice of bus passengers in the wider Hailsham area. A representative of this group will be attending the meetings of the Quality Bus Partnership and be consulted on matters relating to local bus services such as customer relations, bus shelters, reliability, punctuality and bus timetables.



For further information or to join this group, please contact Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702.

Letters...

We welcome letters for publication on local issues affecting Hailsham. Please post your letter to Town Council Offices (Newsletter), Inglenook, Market Street, BN27 2AE or email it to terry.hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.

Please don't forget to include your title, initial, surname and address street name and be sure to mark your letter 'for publication'. Anonymous letters will not be published. The Editor reserves the right to shorten or edit letters in the interests of clarity, brevity and style, and to reject material that is not considered significant or of interest to the residents. A maximum length of 120 words is recommended.

I was delighted to hear from a friend that the Dennis King Memorial Orchard and Sensory Garden is being well-used and appreciated by members of the public. People have often head of the garden but are unsure of its exact location. Directional signage is now improved and the garden can be accessed from Gleanagles Drive and via Grovelands Road - M King, London Road

HTC: Working towards significant improvements to the sensory garden such as this has been a fantastic challenge for the Hailsham In Bloom Committee. Enhancements to the site will continue to be made in the future including the installation of signs on-site in the coming weeks, one with tactile graphics and Braille lettering, which will outline the layout of the garden for visually impaired people.

Having been a horse rider, I know how important it is to have peaceful offroad bridleways. I have watched the re-routing of bridleway no 11 that originally started by the old forge at the end of London Road and exited on the junction of the A22 and Hempstead Lane. My concern is that this once-country track will be totally absorbed into the roads of the new housing estate behind Anglesey Avenue. This is a good opportunity for the local council to divert the right of way on to the far edge of the land designated for recreation. This would ensure the ride is both safe and pleasant - D Fisher, Shetland Close

HTC: Whilst the Town Council takes all concerns from residents seriously and will support them with local issues when required, the re-routing of bridleways in Hailsham is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council. Therefore, we would recommend you contact them on 0345 60 80 190 in the first instance to discuss this matter further. If the Town Council can be of further assistance, please call 01323 841702.